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Office of the  
Minister  
Bureau du  
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Ministry of Health  
Ministère de la Santé

Hepburn Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2C4  
416/965-2421

Edifice Hepburn  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2C4  
416/965-2421

October 7, 1986

Ms. Evelyn Gigantes, M.P.P.  
Ottawa Centre  
Room 221, North Wing  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A2

Dear Ms. Gigantes:

This is to acknowledge your recent letter concerning the recognition and investigation of environmental hypersensitivity issues.

I support your view that issues raised by articulate and well-informed citizens deserve our attention. You may know that recognition of the issues related to environmental hypersensitivity resulted in the appointment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Hypersensitivity Disorders, chaired by George M. Thomson, in November, 1984.

The Committee was convened to bring together information on environmental hypersensitivities, and on the needs of those who attribute their ill health to hypersensitivities. The Committee consulted and received submissions from physicians with a number of different specialties and practices, including clinical ecology, research scientists, patients with sensitivities and groups and individuals advocating for these patients. To my knowledge, all known sources of information or research were considered.

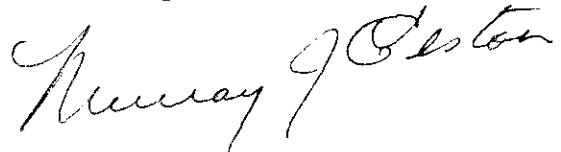
The Report of the Ad Hoc Committee was submitted to me on September 9, 1985. Following internal review and discussion, I released this document publicly on December 17, 1985. At that time, I requested that The Hospital for Sick Children convene an advisory panel to review the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the recommendations. Chairman of the panel is Dr. Barry Zimmerman.

Ms. Evelyn Gigantes, M.P.P.

I am aware that the Advocacy Group for the Environmentally Sensitive (AGES) is concerned about the membership of the panel. The membership represents a range of practice settings and disciplines, including the nutritional and neurosciences. I am satisfied that the expertise and the professional status of the members, and the multidisciplinary nature of the panel, will ensure a fair and careful review of the Report.

The panel is concluding its work, and it will be possible to release the report of the deliberations within a short time. I encourage you and your constituents to comment on the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the report of the advisory panel in the interest of a full discussion and appraisal of issues concerning environmental hypersensitivities.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Murray J. Elston".

Murray J. Elston, M.P.P.  
Huron-Bruce  
Minister